

MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HURLOCK MINUTES

NOVEMBER 28, 2011

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF HURLOCK MET AT THE TOWN HALL ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2011 WITH MAYOR JOYCE SPRATT, AND COUNCIL MEMBERS CHARLES CEPHAS, PARKER DURHAM, CHRISTOPHER ADAMS AND MICHAEL NORDSTROM; TOWN ATTORNEY HUGH CARTER VINSON, AND CLERK/TREASURER KATHLEEN CLOUGH.

MAYOR SPRATT CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00 P.M., FOLLOWED BY THE INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

TOWN ATTORNEY HUGH CARTER VINSON, ESQ., READ A LETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE STATE PROSECUTOR, WHICH STATED THAT AFTER A YEAR-LONG INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGATIONS OF FINANCIAL WRONG-DOING BY THE MAYOR AND CLERK, THE INVESTIGATION IS CLOSED AS THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT ANY ALLEGATIONS.

UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER Durham AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER Nordstrom, the Agenda was unanimously approved.

UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER Durham AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER Nordstrom, the Minutes of October 24, 2011 were approved by a vote of 3-1, with Council Member Cephas voting Nay.

UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER Durham AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER Nordstrom, the Minutes of November 14, 2011 were approved by a vote of 2-1, with Council Member Cephas voting Nay. (Council Member Adams was in Africa the evening of that meeting, and so he abstained.)

MS. CAROL EMBRY OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE FOR DORCHESTER COUNTY PRESENTED THE MAYOR WITH A BINDER OF ALL OF THE ORDINANCES REGARDING ANIMAL WELFARE AND SPOKE ABOUT THE MANY STATE AND COUNTY STANDARDS.

MAYOR SPRATT THANKED THE PUBLIC FOR ALL OF THEIR PRAYERS WHILE SHE WAS RECOVERING FROM HER HEART ATTACK. SHE ASKED EVERYONE TO STOP IN AT THE FOOD RITE WHERE THERE IS A "HUGE, HUGE DIFFERENCE," STATING IT IS LIKE A NEW GROCERY STORE. SHE ENCOURAGED EVERYONE TO STOP IN AND THANK HARRY FOR GIVING THE PEOPLE OF HURLOCK A GOOD GROCERY STORE.

THE MAYOR ANNOUNCED THAT THE CHRISTMAS HOME DECORATION CONTEST THAT FORMER COUNCIL MEMBER MICHAEL HENRY ALWAYS HELD WILL CONTINUE, AND THERE WILL BE AWARDS. JUDGING WILL BE AT 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR SPRATT INFORMED THE PUBLIC THAT IN A RECENT NEWS ARTICLE, IT WAS STATED THAT THE TOWN AUDITOR HAD SAID THE TOWN WAS IN TROUBLE. SPRATT SAID THAT IS A TOTAL LIE AND THE TOWN'S AUDITOR WANTED IT TO BE PUBLICLY CORRECTED FOR THE RECORD. MAYOR SPRATT ALSO WANTED TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT REGARDING FAMILY DOLLAR, AND STATED THAT AT THE LAST MINUTE FUNDING WAS IN JEOPARDY AND IT WAS HER STAFF THAT ENGAGED THE STATE TO EXPEDITE PERMITS TO ALLOW THE DEAL TO GO THROUGH WITHIN THE NECESSARY TIMEFRAME.

IN ADDITION, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CORRECTING THE PUBLIC RECORD REGARDING FALSE CLAIMS MADE ABOUT THE MAYOR DURING THE RECENT ELECTION, MAYOR SPRATT INFORMED THE PUBLIC THAT ORIGINALLY EAST COAST

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UNDERGROUND WAS GOING TO FEDERALSBURG. AS A COUNCIL MEMBER, IT WAS SHE WHO CONVINCED THEM TO LOCATE HERE IN HURLOCK AND IT WAS SHE WHO SOLD THEM THE PROPERTY IN THE HURLOCK INDUSTRIAL PARK.

THE MAYOR ADVISED THE COUNCIL THAT PLANNING OFFICER JOHN AVERY IS THE CONTACT PERSON FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARADE AND ASKED THE COUNCIL TO ALLOW THE TOWN TO BE THE SPONSOR FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARADE AS THERE IS NO LONGER A CHRISTMAS PARADE COMMITTEE.

MR. AVERY EXPLAINED THAT WILL BE ORGANIZED BY VOLUNTEERS WITH DONATIONS AND IT WILL BE SELF-FUNDED. THERE IS A CHRISTMAS PARADE BUDGET AND SEPARATE ACCOUNT FOR DONATIONS AND A LIMIT ON SPENDING.

UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS, THE 2011 CHRISTMAS PARADE WILL BE SPONSORED BY THE TOWN OF HURLOCK BY A VOTE OF 3-1, WITH COUNCIL MEMBER CEPHAS VOTING IN OPPOSITION.

POLICE CHIEF HUTTON GAVE THE COUNCIL HIS REPORT WITH STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH, AND ADVISED THAT TWO RECRUITS WILL BE GRADUATING FROM THE POLICE ACADEMY ON DECEMBER 16, 2011.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER RICK PRICE ANNOUNCED THAT THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD THEIR ANNUAL MEETING WITH THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION AND LEGISLATORS, WHERE THE COUNCIL ADVOCATED FOR THE RESTORATION OF HIGHWAY USER FUNDS. HE FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT THE COUNCIL PASSED A SOLAR ENERGY AMENDMENT TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR FOLKS TO APPLY TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT OR GO TO THE BOARD OF PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZONING APPEALS. REPRESENTATIVE PRICE INFORMED THE PUBLIC THAT THE FIRST BUDGET WORK SESSION WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 8, 2011.

UNDER OLD BUSINESS, THE MAYOR AGAIN BROUGHT UP THE NEED, BY MANDATE OF THE CHARTER, TO APPOINT A PERSON TO THE DISTRICT 1 SEAT VACATED BY FORMER COUNCIL MEMBER MICHAEL HENRY.

"COUNCIL IS REQUIRED BY THE TOWN CHARTER ARTICLE III. THE COUNCIL, § 307. VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL, TO APPOINT A NEW COUNCIL MEMBER TO REPLACE THE FORMER REPRESENTATIVE OF DISTRICT 1.

ARTICLE III THE COUNCIL § 307. VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL

IN THE EVENT OF A VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL FOR ANY REASON, THE COUNCIL, BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, SHALL APPOINT SOME PERSON, QUALIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 302, TO FILL SUCH VACANCY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE UNEXPIRED TERM."

ONCE AGAIN, MR. GARY HENRY WAS NOMINATED, AND THE VOTE WAS 3-1 WITH COUNCIL MEMBER CEPHAS OPPOSING THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. HENRY TO THE DISTRICT ONE SEAT ON THE TOWN OF HURLOCK TOWN COUNCIL.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT BEFORE THE COUNCIL, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:10 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,


KATHLEEN L. CLOUGH, M.S.

CLERK-TREASURER

DECEMBER 12, 2011

DATE